

The Boss Behind The Game Chapter 46

Chapter 46: The War Is Coming

At Liuli District.

On the Skeletal Throne, Cha Na looked at the mountains in the north with a gloomy expression as he slowly clenched his fists.

Never had he foreseen that Du Yan would betray him, but he was more upset by the fact that Du Yan had stolen all his Yin souls.

He was in a tight spot right now.

First of all, he had promised to offer 100,000 Yin souls to the Sea King as sacrifice. Besides, his ability was supposed to surpass the realm of the Ghost King and this batch of Yin souls was one of the keys to his breakthrough.

However, he had lost all of them now.

He recalled the news from his envoy, saying that Du Yan had sought refuge from the Rock Ghost King by offering all his Yin souls. Cha Na's eyes turned fiery.

Both the Sea King and the Rock Ghost King were more powerful than him. The breakthrough that he was initially confident about had been hindered, and Cha Na was completely lost.

"Lord Cha Na, since it is unsafe for Liuli District to be in the middle, why don't we move our base camp and seek shelter at the Mansion of the Dead? We can then deliberate over the issue after you break through the realm of the Ghost King."

Cha Na was astounded by the proposal. After some contemplation, he reckoned that the idea was feasible.

Although, the Mansion of the Dead was not rich in resources like Liuli District, it was a place far from the Underworld Sea. He believed that the Sea King would not travel from Liuli District to the Mansion of the Dead to retrieve the 200,000 Yin souls from him.

The next second, Cha Na unexpectedly put on a frown, "What about the Pool of Yin Souls in Liuli District? We can't just desert it like that!"

The Pool of Yin souls was the Yin souls' birthplace which had been always under Du Yan's care before this. The Yin souls that were produced internally every year were essential for Cha Na's cultivation. Therefore, he was reluctant to abandon it.

Upon listening to that, the soulbringer heaved a sigh, "Lord Cha Na, we don't have time to think about that now. You can only gain a voice in the Land of Beiqi after you surpass the realm of the Ghost King. Otherwise, we'll face a terrible consequence when the Sea King comes after us to request the promised Yin souls!"

The soulbringer's words awakened Cha Na. At last, he grit his teeth and said, "Pass down my command. Pack as many supplies as possible and we'll leave for the Mansion of the Dead in ten days!"

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The next day after the introduction of Sun Chasing Archer, the hidden character class, many NPCs appeared around the Mansion of the Dead.

These additional NPCs were created by Lu Wu to enrich the gameplay.

Among them, the most popular ones were the chubby chef of the dark cuisine and the old man with a goatee who taught players to brew potions out of various herbs.

The debut of the chubby chef was especially well-liked among the players as they were now able to experience tastes in the underworld like never before.

Although some players were poisoned to death by the dark cuisine after they tried to cook it with poisonous ingredients from the underworld, it was not a big deal to the gluttons.

Some players with unique palates even brought corpses of wolves and elephants to the chef. The presence of the chef was undeniably the biggest welfare for the foodies in the game.

Owing to the advent of the chubby chef, the players also gained a new hobby to search for edible ingredients, regardless of whether they were poisonous or not. Before the 12-hour game ended, they would make food with the ingredients and gobble it down.

As the game was extremely lifelike, eating in the underworld was very realistic, absolutely intriguing the players.

Players who had shrewd business acumen immediately started many cooking live streaming channels.

A foodaholic player in the forum even wrote a book called "The Record of Dark Cuisine" after he experienced innumerable deaths by tasting a plethora of poisonous menus.

It described the ingredients that could be found in the area near the Mansion of the Dead. Besides, it taught its readers ways to match the ingredients for the chubby chef to prepare delicious dishes.

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The most popular NPC was none other than Lu Mo, the leader of the newbie village.

Lu Mo was the first NPC every player would meet. He would brief the players about the thrilling and fascinating underworld that was awaiting to be explored.

In short, Lu Mo simplified the underworld and made it accessible to new players.

Moreover, Lu Mo was set to carry an amicable persona. He would often engage in heartfelt conversations with the players and listen to their concerns and worries. For the players, he was perceived as a friend rather than a virtual existence. Hence, Lu Mo was undeniably the most popular NPC in the game.

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On this day, Lu Wu received a call from Wu Guoyi, telling him that the selection, that had been going on for a month, had finally ended.

Just like what the players predicted, Battle Online, among all the other games, had earned the most number of votes.

The dark horse had surprised many people this time. However, after the public experienced the game, their astonishment turned into awe and praise.

Even Li Tianxia was unreservedly captivated after he tested the game. Subsequently, he became the vice chairman of the Avengers, one of the major forces in the game.

After the result of the selection was announced, Wu Guoyi discussed with Lu Wu over the phone, hoping that Lu Wu could start to work on the theme song of the game. According to Wu Guoyi, Lu Wu was welcomed to ask for Wu Guoyi's help if he encountered any problems.

Consequently, Lu Wu began to deliberate over the theme song.

However, he was distressed, undecided over the singer and the production of the song.

He reached out to Bei Li expectantly, hoping that she would lend a helping hand.

However, Bei Li responded with a scoff, looking at him as though he was a fool.

"I only know how to do research. I don't know how to sing and compose a song!"

Lu Wu, who was left with no other options, passed the problem back to Wu Guoyi.

Wu Guoyi did not mind at all and accepted the challenge immediately. In the meantime, he offered to introduce a few celebrities for auditions. As for the theme song of the game, he planned to hire a professional composers to produce it.

However, he would certainly not let Wu Guoyi bear the cost.

Now that the game was on the right track, there would be many ways to earn money. Lu Wu intended to create more outfits for the characters in the game.

The different outfits would not enhance the player's abilities. Although they could only beautify the players' appearances, he reckoned that there would be many players who would willingly spend money to upgrade their look. This was also the only thing that the players could buy with their credits in the game.

As the popularity of Battle Online expanded on Platform173, the people who were in charge of the other gaming platforms grew more perturbed.

With strenuous effort, they blended into the employees of Platform173 and successfully obtained Lu Wu's contact information.

On a daily basis, Lu Wuyi received dozens of phone calls from other gaming platforms, hoping to invite him to join in cooperative advertising. They were very keen to list Battle Online on their platform.

Lu Wu declined the offers without hesitation.

Of course, Lu Wu did not reject them thoroughly. After all, he had an agreement with Wu Guoyi that Platform173 would provide a two-month exclusive advertisement for Battle Online.

Wu Guoyi had done great help to him and Lu Wu could not break his promise.

Two months later, Battle Online would have to build its own brand.

The Boss Behind The Game Chapter 47

Chapter 47: The Immortal Bird

Ba Lun was an international student who hailed from Dragon Nation.

When he was studying in Dragon Nation, Ba Lun's favorite pastime, besides playing games, was listening to rock music.

Due to his interest in rock music, he formed a rock band with his friends, aspiring to build their future with rock music.

After he was accidentally exposed to Battle Online, Ba Lun was hooked on the game. Consequently, he forgot about his dream to become a musician.

In the game, he was a berserker who was also a member of a certain guild. Now, his daily routine was to spend time with his guild mates, ardently engaging in wilderness player killing, making investments, and exploring places outside the Mansion of the Dead.

Feeling as though he could immerse himself in another extremely graphic and realistic world, Ba Lun completely indulged in the game.

On this day, the game finally ended after twelve hours when Ba Lun, who yearned to continue playing, was kicked out of the game.

After Ba Lun removed his helmet, he pursed his lips as he whined about the game, calling it a trashy invention. Then, he logged into the forum of the game routinely, intending to update himself with the latest intriguing news of the games and look for new tips from other players.

However, his attention was quickly caught by the title of the official announcement that was pinned on the page:

“Online Game Theme Song Contest”

In the underworld, there was a piece of land blessed with tranquility. Under their king’s reign, thousands of tribes lived together in harmony, inhabiting this quiet land which was free of disputes.

However, there’s a fine line separating peace and war. By virtue of the Demonic Dragon’s advent, the Land of Beiqi was greeted by darkness.

Darkness grows in the loss of light, and vice versa. The emergence of a new evil force has triggered the bloodshed on the land that had been hushed for millenia.

Today is the day! You, the children of Beiqi, polish your long swords and put on your armor. It’s time for you to release your righteous ardor in the woods and execute justice at sea. With blood and tears, pen down the dawn of your expedition now!

Requisites for the theme song:

The song should be optimistic and relevant to the content of the game.

The composers should own full copyrights of their submissions. Plagiarism is strictly forbidden.

The “Battle Online Corporation” reserves all the right of final interpretation.

Prizes:

Winner will be able to pick one from two prizes:

3000 soul coins

1 million dollars cash

Ba Lun read the introduction of the songwriting contest, then the prize options, with his eyes wide in shock.

He scanned the page for other comments and found that the other players appeared to be just as astounded as he was.

Invincible_Loneliness: "I'm taking the 3000 soul coins! I'm going to immediately hire someone to compose the music for me. Soul coins, wait for me!"

Crayon_Shinchan replied to Invincible_Loneliness: "Hey zillionaire, what if your song doesn't earn you the prize and you lose all your money?"

Invincible_Loneliness replied to Crayon_Shinchan: "I'm not short of cash. I'm only afraid to not have enough soul coins to squander!"

Xueli_The_Strongest: "3000 soul coins! Oh my god. I'm feeling a little dizzy right now. No, my eyes are slightly blurry too. That makes approximately 2.4 million dollars after conversion... someone hold me tight before I pass out."

Ye_Xueer_is_the_cutest: "I will pick 3000 soul coins!"

Strike_Gold: "Only idiots will pick 1 million dollars over the soul coins. There is a major shortage of soul coins now. One can easily sell the soul coins for 2 million dollars."

A_Mammoth: "I personally know a famous lyricist. I'll bring a few bottles of liquor to his place and develop a rapport with him. The prize of the contest is mine!"

Watermelon_Taro: "A loser like me can only sit here quietly while I watch you experts tear each other apart!"

Ba Lun fell silent after he read the comments.

Undeniably, he was very tempted to join the contest. On top of the alluring prize, he had the opportunity to compose a theme song for the game he really liked. His dream to be a rocker was reignited.

Finally, he found a notebook in his drawer. Then, he lifted his pen and began to write down the music...

The next day morning, a few of his good friends rushed to the school's music room after they received Ba Lun's phone calls. Shocked, they stared at Ba Lun who had dark circles under his eyes.

"Help me out, brothers!" Ba Lun said feebly.

Noticing that his good friends were exchanging looks in confusion, Ba Lun handed them the copies of music score he prepared beforehand:

"The Phoenix (The Immortal Bird)"

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"Ba Lun, did you write this? I heard that you've been obsessed with video games recently. What makes you start to play with music again?" his friends exclaimed.

Ba Lun shook his head weakly and told them about the songwriting contest.

"So, are you willing to help me?" Ba Lun asked.

Seeing that Ba Lun was staring at them expectantly, his friends looked at each other before they giggled.

Ba Lun put on a grin after he received the answer from his friends.

They formed a band with a guitarist, a bassist, a drummer, a lead singer, and a member who was in charge of the rhythm section.

The five of them gathered in the music room after Ba Lun got some rest. Promptly, they took up the challenge of composing the song:

"Put on your war paint

You are a brick tied to me that's dragging me down

Strike a match and I'll burn you to the ground

We are the jack-o-lanterns in July

Setting fire to the sky

Here, here comes this rising tide

So come on

Put on your war paint"

.....

Silver clouds with grey linings

So we can take the world back from a heart attack

.....

Then I'll raise you like a phoenix

Put on your war paint

The melody resonated across the music room, attracting the attention of many students.

Listening to the upbeat song, they subconsciously stopped in their tracks as they gradually felt moved by the sonorous melody and overwhelmed by the hopefulness of the music.

.....

The theme song contest was led by Lu Wu, who reckoned that he might possibly be surprised by the players' talents as he awaited Wu Guoyi's reply.

Being the only judge of the contest, Lu Wu's workload had increased significantly since the day the theme song contest officially commenced. He was caught off guard by the innumerable submissions that swamped the inbox of his secondary email.

Expecting assistance, Lu Wu looked at Bei Li who was savoring her meal. However, she replied to Lu Wu with merely an assuring gaze and an encouraging gesture.

Flustered, Lu Wu had no choice but to pull himself together and begin to screen the submissions.

To ensure that he was fair to every player, he listened to every song carefully before he sieved the awful ones out. Then, he compared the remaining songs in order to choose the better ones.

After five days of hard work, Lu Wu was left with three songs.

Lu Wu liked all three songs immensely. The finalists were:

"Who Rules Over the Land of Beiqi's Destiny" by Invincible_Loneliness

"The Awakened King" by Midnight

"The Phoenix (The Immortal Bird)" by Ba Lun

Although he genuinely enjoyed all the songs, there could only be one winner. Lu Wu contemplated to decide on the winner.

After he repeatedly listened to the songs, Lu Wu finally decided to crown Ba Lun's "The Phoenix (The Immortal Bird)" as the champion.

In comparison to the two other songs, Ba Lun's song was able to pump up the audience more effectively. Therefore, it was apt to be the theme song of a war game.

After the result was decided, Lu Wu sent an email to Ba Lun to notify him about his victory. Meanwhile, Lu Wu also informed Ba Lun that the reward would be credited to his account after the song was officially released.

Next, Lu Wu only had to wait for Wu Guoyi to hire a professional singer.

The Boss Behind The Game Chapter 48

Chapter 48: Ao Jian

At the peak of the Hidden Tiger Mountain which was located at the border of Dragon Nation.

Two silhouettes were standing apart amidst the clouds as they stared at each other.

The man, who was dressed in green, carried a Green Mountain Longsword in his hand. He gazed into the distance expressionlessly with an unyielding and egoistic aura.

The other man had a black robe draped around his shoulders. He carried a red sheath on his back and, in his hand, he held a black longsword, which could maneuver the clouds surrounding the mountain.

"Ao Jian, I have won again!"

Blood dripped down from the wrist of the man in green before he loosened his grip and dropped the Green Mountain Longsword on the floor.

"During the battle that year, I accidentally killed your father. It was my fault and I understand your desire for revenge. However, your talent in kendo is still lacking compared to mine. It will not make any difference even if you practice for another ten, or even twenty years. You will never be qualified to be my adversary," the man in black spoke as he looked at Ao Jian, appearing perturbed.

"Talent?" the expression of the man in green slowly turned from composed to anguished.

In order to revenge, he left his family behind and committed his life in perfecting his swordsmanship. Was his obsession toward swordsmanship ultimately in vain?

Ao Jian was overwhelmed by resentment. He lifted his head up once again, this time with a ferocious expression. He reached out to grab the Green Mountain Longsword that had elevated in the air before he tightened his grip around the sword.

“Let’s do this again!”

Sparks flew from the intense sword fight atop the mountain, visible even through the misty clouds. The gleam of their blades flashed around their surroundings.

“Ao Jian, you don’t have a stable sword spirit. If you continue to battle, beware of going astray in kendo!”

The man in black made a slash with his longsword and created a gigantic sword shadow to encase himself within. In spite of the swamping Sword Qi, he was kept safe and secure within the shadow.

“You shall die!”

Ao Jian’s eyes turned crimson red and he had become a complete maniac as he heedlessly swung his longsword. The demon in him grew incessantly.

“Bang!”

A clear clang resonated across the atmosphere. The Sword Qi at the mountaintop immediately dispersed as though the source of the Sword Qi had been destroyed, while the Green Mountain Longsword fractured.

Following a loud thud, Ao Jian dropped to his knees before he spat out a mouthful of blood.

“Sigh. Ao Jian, you have been deeply engrossed in kendo. But now, because of kendo, you have turned monstrous! Repent and be saved. It’s time to let go of your sword now!”

Ao Jian gave no response. He stared at the broken longsword with a pair of soulless eyes as though his spirit had been extirpated.

“Sigh…”

Wu Qing heaved another long sigh before he sheathed his black sword and left the scene.

Once again, the cloud surrounded the mountaintop. Ao Jian, like a soulless body, continued to stare emotionlessly at the broken sword.

A year later, it was drizzling when Ao Jian reappeared on a street, which was paved with blue slate tiles, in an old town.

Following a byroad, he left the town before he traveled along a muddy road toward the peak of the mountain.

When he arrived at the mountaintop, Ao Jian overlooked the two tombstones that were set up side by side. They were almost completely covered with weeds. Before long, he left the place.

He was obsessed with kendo as though his life was attached to the sword. He had sacrificed too much in the process of sharpening his swordsmanship. He had no regrets even if he had to go through the unbearable pain and grief after his wife and daughter's death.

Ao Jian, whose very name means majestic sword, was born for the sword and thus, was named after it, too.

This was what his father told him. Hence, he never stopped working on his swordsmanship.

However, at this moment, Ao Jian was completely lost.

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His father was accidentally killed by Wu Qing in combat. Despite the fact that he had given everything up to cultivate his swordsmanship, he still could not prove to be a worthy rival for Wu Qing, the man who murdered his father.

He did not know what he should do next. Neither did he know where he could pursue the abstruse Supreme Kendo.

Confused and dispirited, Ao Jian continued his journey without direction and purpose. All he wanted was to search for the Supreme Kendo that had been imprinted on his mind.

On this day, Ao Jian stopped at a corner of the street, looking unkempt and depressed.

As two young men were walking past him, he overheard their dialogues.

"Hey, have you heard about the fight between the Demolition Officers and Guardian Angels in the wild yesterday? There was an assassin who played as the berserker and

he was totally invincible! He must be adept at his swordsmanship in real life as well. I hope I can be his apprentice and learn from him...”

Upon listening to the conversation, the misted eyes of Ao Jian, who was still hiding in the corner, lit up. He stood up abruptly and stopped before the young man who was speaking. He reached out to grab the man by his arm.

“The swordmaster? Where is he? Tell me!”

“Ouch, you’re hurting me!” agonized, the young lad’s face was flushed red. He defended himself by slapping Ao Jian in his arms.

“Tell me. Where is the swordmaster?”

“Battle Online. He’s in the game, Battle Online. His name is Mu Jiuge...”

This was Ao Jian’s first time in using a virtual reality device. He clumsily adjusted his outfit and put on the virtual reality headset before he logged into Battle Online.

Ao Jian was astonished by the true-to-life virtual world that was laid before his eyes.

He grew up in an ancient town far away. Since he was a child, he committed all his time practicing his swordsmanship as he was obsessed with it. That explained why this was his first ever encounter with such a high-tech device.

Fortunately, the game provided tutorials to guide the players as they created a new character. With the help of the manual, he chose a berserker who was equipped with a sword and officially joined the game.

Ao Jian, whose swordsmanship had achieved the Microcosm Realm, was very sensitive to the difference between reality and the virtual world. However, even he suspected if everything before his eyes was real.

His sole purpose here was to look for Mu Jiuge to personally witness his swordsmanship.

He did not kill a single monster throughout his entire journey. All he did was to ask and search for Mu Jiuge’s whereabouts.

At last, he met Mu Jiuge from the Demolition Guild after almost half a day’s search.

“I want to challenge you!” Ao Jian said the moment he met Mu Jiuge.

Looking at the level zero that elevated above Ao Jian’s head, Mu Jiuge shook his head before he chuckled and said, “Come back again after you’ve reached a higher level!”

“You are afraid to accept my challenge? The first rule in practicing kendo is to be courageous. You don’t deserve to cultivate your swordsmanship!” after being rejected by Mu Jiuge, Ao Jian shook his head as he walked away.

Similarly, Mu Jiuge had devoted his life in sword fighting in reality. Therefore, Ao Jian’s words had certainly infuriated him.

“You’re no one to comment on me. You, conceited man, I’ll fight with you if you insist!” Mu Jiuge retorted.

With a grin on his face this time, Ao Jian turned around before he lifted his starter longsword.

Unlike other players, Mu Jiuge bought a longsword from the shop instead of other powerful weapons that could be helpful to the berserker such as the Greatsword or the Battle Axe.

They were separated by twenty-six levels, but Mu Jiuge was completely stunned during the beginning of the fight.

The swordsmanship and skills exhibited by Ao Jian were nothing like Mu Jiuge had seen before. Ao Jian bonded with his sword as one. Mu Jiuge felt as if he was fighting with a single sharp, lethal sword.

Within three quick rounds, Mu Jiuge had been attacked more than ten times. However, Mu Jiuge’s sword did not even touch Ao Jian once.

Mu Jiuge believed he would have been defeated if it was not for his high level, good attributes, and defensive protective gear.

The Boss Behind The Game Chapter 49

Chapter 49: Demonic Sage Of Ten Swords

After a few rounds of violent exchanges, the bloody ‘-1’ that continuously appeared above Mu Jiuge’s head caused his face to turn pale.

He could not believe that his swordsmanship, which he took pride in, was merely child’s play in front of this man.

“Go to hell!” eventually, Mu Jiuge could not help but to unleash his berserker’s skill, the Groundbreaking Slashes.

A fiery red blade surfaced from the ground. It formed a crescent shape, then charged toward Ao Jian.

Upon seeing this, Ao Jian focused his gaze before he nimbly dodged the blade and avoided the attack by the skin of his teeth.

“Wu, one of the inheritances in the Spirit Summoning Palace seems unstable!” Bei Li, who was eating, said in a serious tone.

“Huh?” puzzled, Lu Wu stared at Bei Li.

“Let’s go and have a look!” Bei Li’s consciousness entered the artifact and Lu Wu quickly followed after seeing that.

The battle between Mu Jiuge and Ao Jian was still ongoing. Mu Jiuge could not help but use his skill after he learned that Ao Jian was a strong opponent. After all, his dignity did not allow him to fail.

However, he was surprised by the fluidity of Ao Jian’s sword skills. Ao Jian was able to avoid Mu’s skills and, at the same time, struck him with his sword.

Facing such a skillful opponent, Mu Jiuge was slowly worn out as the fight continued. He panicked when he saw his health that was soon going to be depleted and messed up his subsequent performance.

Conversely, Ao Jian remained cool and ruthless as he moved his sword agilely as though it was a part of his arm and launched multiple attacks toward Mu Jiuge.

“Ding! You have killed the player, Mu Jiuge.”

As the notification appeared, Mu Jiuge slowly fell onto the ground with resentment written across his face before he eventually turned into black smoke and vanished into thin air.

Ao Jian was surprised by Mu Jiuge’s extremely ordinary swordsmanship. In fact, Ao Jian thought Mu Jiuge’s skill was almost terrible. It was not what he expected from a swordmaster.

In spite of the disappointing battle, Ao Jian was astonished when Mu Jiuge showcased his skills during the later part of the fight.

Ao Jian could clearly sense the change of the surrounding energy when Mu Jiuge exhibited the skill. Ao Jian was completely amazed by it.

A man with the worst swordsmanship had actually fought and simultaneously activated the energy of heaven and earth. What was deemed impossible by Ao Jian had happened right before his eyes.

When Ao Jian was pondering over the question, a notification popped up and Ao Jian sensed that a great force had landed on him.

[Server Announcement: Congratulations to player Ao Jian for comprehending the sword spirit and achieving the hidden character class: The Demonic Sage of Ten Swords.]

Lu Wu and Bei Li were dumbfounded to see what had happened.

According to Bei Li's settings, some of the hidden character classes in the Spirit Summoning Palace would only be unveiled under certain conditions.

As these valiant spirits still carried their remaining consciousness, they were allowed to choose their inheritors based on their own will.

As the actual location of the Spirit Summoning Palace was located within the artifact, the valiant spirits could absolutely feel the player. However, this was the first time the valiant spirit connected with the player, triggered the settings of the artifact and revealed the inheritance.

"What power is this!"

Ao Jian was horrified as he could clearly feel a force of the Supreme Kendo lingering above his head.

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He appeared enthralled by the domineering yet overwhelming energy as his lips gently trembled.

This was the power of ultimate kendo that he had never possessed and had always yearned for.

Ao Jian raised his hand, intending to touch the energy above his head. However, at this moment, the energy rushed into his body.

In the meantime, the artifact was activated and all the inheritance was digitized.

Then, a man with a wrinkled face, who was carrying a Nine Spiritual Sword, appeared in front of Ao Jian.

The character class menu of the Demonic Sage of Ten Swords popped up.

[Demonic Sage of Ten Swords]:

Background of Character Class: Jian Chou devoted his life to comprehend kendo to avenge his father's death. Owing to his lack of talent, many times he almost lost his life.

While the other swordsmen continued to grow stronger, he was no match for his rivals. He went into seclusion for thirty years and vowed that he would never leave the mountains until the day he grasped the ultimate kendo.

Thirty years had passed when Jian Chou finally left the cliff of despair with nine swords and mercilessly killed his enemies.

Quote from Jian Chou: "One's lack of talent can be curbed by a sword. If one sword is not enough, use two; if two swords are not enough, use three. I spent thirty years to comprehend kendo and created ten swords. And, I am the tenth sword."

Character Class Introduction: The Nine Spiritual Swords will be upgraded alongside the player's level. When one has fully grasped the kendo, one can slash the heavens, the earth, and all their foes.

Character Class Weapon: Unique character class, unarmed.

Character Class Growth: No additional attributes. Not allowed to acquire the berserker's skill.

"Demonic Sage of Ten Swords... Demonic Sage of Ten Swords!" Ao Jian murmured with a blank look on his face.

"No. Where did the energy go? Where is it? Give it back to me now!"

Aggrieved, Ao Jian howled as he could no longer feel the energy after it fused into his body.

At this moment, he suddenly turned his head and found nine spiritual swords of different colors, that were levitating in the air, behind him.

"It will be upgraded alongside the player's level..." realization hit Ao Jian hard as he reread the menu. He then rushed to the Mansion of the Dead.

Flustered, Lu Wu and Bei Li watched as Lu Wu sprinted toward the Mansion of the Dead, not believing that the level-zero player had actually earned the inheritance.

Unbeknownst to them, Ao Jian almost thought that his supreme inheritance was gone when it was actually being digitized.

After he learned that only upgrading his personal level could trigger the power of the Demonic Sage of Ten Swords, Ao Jian embarked on his journey to upgrade his level and grasp the true purpose of swordsmanship.

After Ao Jian had comprehended Jian Chou's Demonic Sage of Ten Swords, Ao Jian reckoned that this might be the time for him to take his revenge. This was the true

Supreme Kendo! He believed that if he thoroughly understood the power of Jian Chou's kendo, he would be able to defeat Wu Qing!

Jian Chou's kendo was aimed for revenge. Just like Ao Jian, Jian Chou had an enemy who was far stronger than him. Ao Jian felt as though they shared the same experience.

To quote Jian Chou, if one was not as strong as one's rival, he or she should use two, if not three swords. Jian Chou's kendo was what Ao Jian had always desired.

However, Ao Jian did not know that Jian Chou's valiant spirit was moved because they shared identical sword spirit. That was why Jian Chou passed his inheritance to Ao Jian.

At this moment, Ao Jian had found his purpose in the game. He regained his enthusiasm while his cracked sword spirit was once again consolidated.

The Boss Behind The Game Chapter 50

Chapter 50: The Cultivator

After Ao Jian had advanced into the hidden character class, the news was heavily discussed by the players in the forum. Who is this player? Is the hidden character class powerful?

Before long, one of the players uploaded a 10-minute video to the forum and triggered a tumult amongst the players.

In the video, a Level 4 player was seen challenging the netherworld creature at the Ghost Mountains.

The players were astonished to find the nine glowing Spiritual Swords levitating behind the Level 4 player. His style appeared to be extremely glamorous.

It was inconceivable for other gamers that a Level 4 player could effortlessly defeat the netherworld creature, which was far stronger.

He continuously changed the Spiritual Sword in his hand as he utilized his Shenfa to stealthily move around and attack the netherworld creature. Not only that, his every strike landed accurately on the netherworld creature's vital body parts.

The video lasted for 10 minutes. The Level 4 swordsman single-handedly killed the netherworld creature with his incredible ability before he picked up the Netherworld Pearl and headed to the Ghost Mountains.

The players who had watched the video were greatly impressed by the man's skills.

Strike_Gold: "He is the true boss! He must be the player who has successfully achieved class advancement and become the Demonic Sage of Ten Swords."

Crayon_Shinchan: "I take my hat off to this man! He performed his skills perfectly as though he was a bot! I have scrupulously watched the video thrice. Every step he took was well-judged. Moreover, his every attack hit precisely on his enemy's vital body parts, namely the head and throat. He is the real boss!"

A_Mammoth: "A bot-like player makes the most formidable opponent!"

God_Slayer: "After I watched the video, I have a sudden urge to replace my Greatsword with a Longsword. If I were the opponent, I would yield to his skill at my own will!"

A_Rough_Man: "Before this, I used to always wonder why berserkers would opt to use the Longsword, a light weapon, during fights. The damage of the Longsword is not as impactful as the Greatsword and Greataxe. However, after I watched the fight between Mu Jiuge, the Demolition Officer, and the bot-like player, I learned that the Longsword is the most powerful weapon, given that you are exceptionally skillful!"

Junior_Captain_Of_Demolition_Officers: "He is probably the godlike man who, according to Old Mu, was defeated thoroughly by a Level 0 unimportant player! Initially, I refused to believe it, thinking that it was merely a joke. But now, I am absolutely convinced!"

Captain_Of_Demolition_Officers: "The Demolition Guild needs mighty men like this. Join us! (Clamour till our voices crack)"

Watermelon_Taro: "The number of experts is increasing. Today, they have all risen and their eyes are fiery. Can we launch an attack at Cha Na now? My patience is wearing thin!"

Crayon_Shinchan replied to Watermelon_Taro: "Talented man, please relax! We shouldn't act impulsively. When our team grows more mature, we'll definitely beat Cha Na!"

Xueli_The_Strongest: "Wow! It was an outstanding play! Upon witnessing his skills, I began to admire this bot-like player deeply!"

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Just like how it was showcased in the comment section, the swordsmanship of the bot-like player had impressed the other gamers tremendously. Apparently, his expertise was beyond the public's belief.

Out of curiosity, Lu Wu did a little research on Ao Jian's soul, only to find out that the strength of his soul was noticeably stronger than the other players.

In Bei Li's opinion, the player had definitely gone through cultivation in real life and his personal ability must be sufficiently good. Otherwise, it was impossible to strengthen one's soul to this level.

Lu Wu was astounded by Bei Li's theory, "It's possible for one to go through cultivation in real life?"

Similarly, Bei Li was surprised by Lu Wu's questions, "When the underworld truly exists, why is it impossible for cultivation to be carried out in real life?"

Lu Wu replied, "If that's true, why haven't I met any cultivator?"

"Had you visited the underworld before this?" Bei Li asked a rhetorical question while she looked at Lu Wu as though he was an idiot.

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Lu Wu was dumbstruck by Bei Li's rather sound reply.

At this moment, Lu Wu's mind was filled with graphics of cultivation, zombies, Taoism, Buddhism, and immortality. Nevertheless, he was an experienced man.

Bei Li stared impassively at Lu Wu who was engrossed in his fantasy.

"You don't have to dwell on it. The underworld is at its Dharma-ending age because of the dissipation of reiki. Cultivators might exist but they are as rare as hens' teeth and you will hardly meet one throughout your entire life."

"Then, why would a cultivator join the online game? Have they discovered something?" Lu Wu could not help but ask after a terrifying thought struck him.

Upon listening to the question, Bei Li chuckled, "Wu, you've underestimated the power of the artifact. The Lord King of Beiqi has invested his whole life to forge the artifact. Even if they run a thorough investigation, they will not be able to uncover the underworld. For them, this will just remain a game."

Lu Wu heaved a sigh of relief. He was afraid that he would turn into the cultivators' target. He would be in deep water if Kunlun, Shushan, or any other virtuous forces collaborated to arrest him for the felonies he had committed.

"Wu, it actually benefits us when a cultivator joins the game."

"How so?"

"I've never told you before. You only know that the King of Beiqi forged the battle artifacts in order to conquer the underworld. However, you didn't know that he will never

antagonize a player. Instead, he may even aid the players as they develop their strength.”

“But, why!” Lu Yu was baffled.

“Because their souls have been marked by the battle artifact. If they are disloyal to the King of Beiqi, their souls will be recalled by the artifact to be exterminated! This is a crucial part of the Lord King of Beiqi’s plan to ensure that there’s no traitor under his reign!”

Lu Wu was shocked by Bei Li’s words. He did not expect the battle artifact to be this potent. Then, he recalled about his plan to put the game on the map. He was pumped up.

Lu Wu’s plan was to turn the underworld into a second world for mankind. Regardless of their age, everyone would be able to have fun in this world. Killing monsters was only one of the fun activities. That means if his plan works out...

He will rule mankind!

“Little Li, can I ask you a question?”

Curious, Bei Li lifted her gaze and asked, “What is it?”

“Can you tell me about your background?” Lu Wu took a deep breath and summoned his courage to ask the question.

It was a question that had been buried in his mind for a very long time. Not only she participated in the development of the terrifying artifact, she also gained the trust from the Old Ancestors. Besides, her ability was outstanding. That was why he had always been curious about her true identity.

“I... I was... adopted by Lord King of Beiqi,” Bei Li responded awkwardly as she played with the corner of her shirt.

Lu Wu was caught off guard by the answer. After a short while, he put on a grin on his face and reached out to ruffle her hair.

“It’s fine if you don’t want to talk about it now. I’ll patiently wait for the day when you are ready to tell me the truth.”

A hint of dejection flashed across Bei Li’s eyes, but she gave a confident nod.

“Wu, I’ll definitely tell you when it’s time! But, you have to believe me when I say that our fates are intertwined. I will never betray you even if the three worlds are against you!”

Lu Wu smiled and patted Bei Li's tiny head again before he left the room. Then, he went to prepare a plethora of delicious dishes as a reward to the hardworking game master.